

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please replace pending claims 1-13 and 15-20 with the following amended claims:

1. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system, comprising:
 - (a) a conduit having at least one end;
 - (b) a housing having an inner chamber and an outer surface;
 - (c) at least one free running hub coupled to said housing and the at least one end of said conduit; and
 - (d) a flexible membrane disposed within said at least one free running hub.
2. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 1, further comprising means for purging any air, other gases or moisture, which may be trapped within the inner chamber of said housing.
3. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 2, wherein the purging means comprises a threaded port formed in the housing and a threaded plug, which is adapted to mate with said threaded port.
4. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 2, wherein the purging means comprises a spring-loaded ball-type valve.
5. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 1, wherein the housing is defined by a mid-section, which is substantially cylindrically shaped, and two free running hubs are disposed on, and mounted to, opposite ends of the mid-section.

6. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 5, wherein the free running hubs are partially conical in shape and have an inside surface, which has a first set female threads formed thereon for mating with the ends of the conduit.

7. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 6, wherein the inside surface of the free running hubs has a second set of female threads formed thereon for mating with the ends of the cylindrically-shaped mid-section and a shoulder adjacent to the second set of female threads.

8. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 7, wherein a flexible membrane is disposed on the inside surface of each of the free running hubs adjacent to the shoulder.

9. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 1, further comprising a polyurethane-based epoxy sealant compound disposed within said inner chamber.

10. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 9, wherein the polyurethane-based epoxy sealant compound comprises a polymer and a monomer.

11. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 1, wherein the housing is formed of an aluminum alloy.

12. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane is generally disk-shaped, formed of neoprene and has at least one opening for accommodating one or more cables.

13. (AMENDED) A method of sealing a conduit, comprising the steps of:

(a) coupling a sealing apparatus comprising a housing having an inner chamber and an outer surface, at least one free running hub having an inner surface, and a

flexible membrane disposed within the at least one free running hub to at least one end of the conduit;

(b) threading any wires or cables contained within said conduit through said flexible membrane; and

(c) filling the inner chamber with a polyurethane-based epoxy sealant compound.

15. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system, comprising:

(a) a conduit having at least one end;

(b) a housing having an inner chamber and an outer surface;

(c) at least one free running hub having an inner surface and a first and second coupling, wherein the first coupling comprises a first set of female threads formed on said inner surface for mating with the at least one end of the conduit and said second coupling comprises a second set of female threads formed on said inner surface for mating with an end of the housing; and

(d) a flexible membrane disposed within said at least one free running hub.

16. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 15, further comprising means for purging any air, other gases or moisture, which may be trapped within the inner chamber of said housing.

17. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 15, wherein the housing is defined by a mid-section, which is substantially cylindrically shaped, and two free running hubs are disposed on, and mounted to, opposite ends of the mid-section.

18. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 15, wherein the flexible membrane is disposed adjacent to a shoulder formed in the inner surface of the at least one free running hub proximate said second coupling.

19. (AMENDED) An apparatus for sealing a conduit according to claim 15, further comprising a sealant compound disposed within said inner chamber, which comprises a polyurethane-based epoxy.

20. (AMENDED) A sealed conduit system according to claim 15, wherein the flexible membrane is generally disk-shaped, formed of neoprene and has at least one opening for accommodating one or more cables.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. All of these claims have been rejected. Claims 1-13 and 15-20 have been amended. A clean version of all of the pending claims, as amended, is in Attachment A. A marked-up version of the claims showing the amendments for the convenience of the Examiner is in Attachment B.

Claim Objections and Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner objected to claims 15 and 18 because of several informalities. He also rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention, and more specifically for lacking antecedent basis. The Applicant amended claims 15, 18 and 19 to correct these informalities in the claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his helpful suggestions in correcting these informalities in the claims. The Applicant has also made other amendments to the claims to more accurately define his invention.